

Beijing+30 Action 5: Peace and Security



Drive accountability for the women, peace and security agenda and gender-responsive humanitarian action by adopting fully financed national action plans and funding the local women's organizations leading responses to crises and conflicts.

I. Introduction

The convergence of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) offers a critical opportunity for governments, civil society and the multilateral system to advance women, peace and security (WPS) and gender-responsive humanitarian action by demonstrating leadership, strengthening partnerships and increasing resources to ensure that commitments made are backed by real action and tangible results.

In 2023, over 170 armed conflicts were recorded, and approximately 612 million women and girls lived within 50 kilometres of these conflicts – 50 per cent more than less than a decade ago. The proportion of women killed in armed conflicts doubled compared to the previous year. The number of cases of conflict-related sexual violence verified by the United Nations was 50 per cent higher than the year before. The economic needs and contributions of conflict-affected women are still absent from many peace agreements and immediate and long-term recovery and reconstruction plans. Important justice breakthroughs have been achieved, but for most gender-based harms impunity prevails. Perhaps most alarmingly, international human rights law and international humanitarian law and their special protections for women are being blatantly ignored.

Instead of increasing with the severity of crisis and backlash against women's rights, bilateral aid for gender equality and women's civil society organizations in conflict and crisis settings has decreased. Yet military expenditure has surged, contrary to the Beijing Platform for Action, which in 1995 called for a reduction in excessive military expenditures and greater control of the availability of armaments.

II. Actions

The Beijing +30 Action Agenda for WPS and humanitarian action will be rooted in partnerships and accountability. In the current context, where the very foundations of normative frameworks and international law are under threat, resolute and joined-up action, dedicated resources and stronger monitoring and reporting against commitments, including stronger gender data and analysis, will be essential. The urgency of reversing current trends cannot be overstated. The WPS agenda is not an add-on, but integral to all peace and security efforts. This approach recognizes the importance of **partnerships** through multilateralism and intergenerational multi-stakeholder action to drive innovation, resources and a critical mass of actors to collectively push this work forward for impact. At the core is multi-pronged accountability, requiring continued support for mechanisms and processes that hold Member States accountable at the Security Council, the Human Rights Council, and national and regional mechanisms.

The year 2025 presents an opportunity to demonstrate leadership, extend political will and **call for investment in specific actions** on prevention, participation, protection, humanitarian action, recovery and economic security. We call on all governments, civil society organizations, regional organizations, United Nations entities, the private sector, academia and the media to mark 2025 by standing up for gender equality and women's and girls' rights in conflict and crisis. **When women lead, peace follows.**

Between 2025 and 2030 all actors should show evidence of impact of concrete actions taken that go beyond meetings and convenings to reach goals and targets, and deliver on commitments made, including:

- Increasing investment in WPS, including women's civil society in conflict and crisis settings
- Adopting and committing to fund, implement and

report on National Action Plans on WPS

- Ensuring the meaningful participation of women in all peace and security decision-making.

III. Normative Roots

The WPS agenda has its roots in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and decades of advocacy by women's rights organizations and women peacebuilders. Women and armed conflict was included as one of the Platform's 12 critical areas of concern. The Platform not only detailed the harrowing impact of war on women and girls but outlined a set of priorities for action. Five years later, in 2000, the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 enshrined the commitment by governments to recognize and support the full, equal and meaningful role that women play in preventing and resolving armed conflicts, in peacebuilding, peacekeeping, post-conflict reconstruction and humanitarian response, and in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security at local, national and international levels.

Subsequent resolutions have established specific mandates for Member States and the United Nations system on protection, participation, prevention, peacebuilding and recovery. The Pact for the Future, adopted in 2024, emphasizes the need to accelerate implementation of WPS commitments and recognize that the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women in decision-making at all levels of peace and security, including conflict prevention and resolution, mediation and in peace operations, is essential to achieve sustainable peace. The Pact for the Future also calls for concrete steps to eliminate human rights violations and abuses experienced by women and girls, including gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence.

IV. Impact at scale

Partnerships and accountability are key to accelerating progress. Since 2015 and the launch of the Global Study on resolution 1325 (2000),¹ several mechanisms have been established with the aim to drive impact at scale, including the WPS Focal Points Network, the Security Council Informal Experts Group, and funds such as the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund and the Elsie Initiative Fund. The number of countries, territories and regional organizations with dedicated policies, action plans and strategies in



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

place has grown significantly over the last decade. In 2015, 53 countries had adopted National Action Plans, while in 2024 this number was 110. These champions and drivers of progress can all play a critical role in expending political capital to push forward against backlash, regression and stagnation. For instance, National Action Plans, which are increasingly being matched with local action plans, articulate a government's strategy to implement the WPS agenda. As such, these plans hold promise to drive impact for the Beijing +30 Action Agenda by integrating key actions, allocating the resources required for implementation, and having systems in place to track and report on results.

V. Proof of concept

Financing is critical to ensure commitments are backed by action. Since its establishment in 2016, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund has supported more than 1,300 women's civil society organizations in 44 countries in crisis. The Fund operates a rapid-response window on women's participation in peace processes and implementation of peace agreements, and the funding window for women human rights defenders.

The right to equal participation is core to the WPS agenda. In settings such as Colombia, intentional and collaborative efforts shaped the design, implementation and outcomes of processes showcasing the power of collective action, partnerships and investment.

1. UN Women, A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (New York, UN Women, 2000), <https://wps.unwomen.org/index.html>.

VI. Existing platforms and alliances to connect to and leverage

There are multiple global platforms, networks and funds this Action can leverage, including:

- **The Security Council Informal Experts Group on WPS** contributes to the quality and availability of gender analysis of issues on the Council's agenda.
- **The WPS Focal Points Network** brings together over 100 Member States and regional organizations to share lessons learned and best practices to drive action on the WPS agenda.²
- **The WPS and Humanitarian Action Compact**, launched as part of the Generation Equality initiative, is a mechanism already rooted in partnerships and accountability.³ Progress and key achievements to date are outlined in the Compact's second annual accountability report.
- **The United Nations Standing Committee on WPS** brings together key United Nations entities with mandates on WPS to drive implementation of the WPS agenda within the United Nations system.
- **Pooled Funds**, including dedicated Funds, such as the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the Elsie Initiative Fund, help realize commitments on WPS.
- **The Inter-Agency Standing Committee** for humanitarian coordination brings together executive heads of organizations and consortia to formulate policy, set strategic priorities and mobilize resources in response to humanitarian crises.
- **Regional women mediator networks** and civil society networks are key partners in driving commitments forward.

2. See <https://wpsfocalpointnetwork.org/>.

3. See <https://wpscompact.org/>.

Impact: What can we achieve by 2030?

By 2030, we expect that regression and stagnation of progress will have been replaced by progress and strong, tangible results positively impacting the sustainability of peace and development results. Among other things, we expect that:

- Women's full, equal, safe and meaningful participation in all aspects of peace and security and humanitarian action is the norm.
- International law is upheld, and women's and girls' human rights and those who defend them are protected in all settings.
- All avenues – from international to national judicial mechanisms – are pursued to ensure accountability for violations of women's rights.
- WPS and gender equality in humanitarian action is adequately financed.
- Safe, unhindered humanitarian access to affected populations, as required by international humanitarian law, is ensured.
- Women's economic security and access to resources is prioritized in conflict, post-conflict and crisis settings.
- Commitments to disarmament and ending arms proliferation are upheld.
- Gender data and analysis in conflict and crisis settings is widely available to inform decisions, policies and programmes, including consultations with women's civil society organizations.

THE BEIJING+30 ACTION AGENDA

This Action is part of the [Beijing+30 Action Agenda](#): a voluntary, action-oriented platform to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda. Grounded in stronger financing for gender equality and better gender data, and centering adolescent girls and young women, the Action Agenda invites Member States to identify one or two national priority actions and announce these at the High-Level Meeting on Beijing+30 on 22 September 2025.